

# USDA Drought Designation Includes all Seventy Seven Counties

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently designated all 77 counties in Oklahoma as primary natural disaster areas due to drought and heat, making all qualified farm operations in the areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans. This is the first disaster declaration made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2013. All 77 counties were similarly designated in 2012. This new designation will cover growing 2013 crops.

“The drought situation here in our state is proving to be challenging for all sectors of agriculture,” said Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, Jim Reese. “While we are starting 2013 with drought conditions, we are hoping for more favorable weather this year.”

The Oklahoma counties that have been included in this designation have shown a drought intensity value of at least D2 for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor. The Drought Monitor scale ranges from D1 to D4 with D1 being moderate drought and D4 being exceptional drought. Oklahoma has had a majority of counties designated as D4 during both 2011 and 2012.

The emergency loans that are available through the USDA have a 2.15% interest rate and allow producers to access funding resources that will hopefully assist with production and physical losses. Producers can visit their local county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to learn more about the programs and eligibility. Thirteen other states in the U.S. had counties designated as disaster areas including Texas, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico and Arkansas.

“This designation will assist our producers in making critical operating decisions as we head into the new year,” said Secretary Reese. “I understand the challenges that Mother Nature can bring to the agriculture industry and I hope for more rain in 2013. I continue to express my thankfulness to those in the ag sector for their fortitude and ingenuity to fight through tough weather conditions to continue to provide the safest, most affordable food supply in the world.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Blayne Arthur (405) 522-6105 or [blayne.arthur@ag.ok.gov](mailto:blayne.arthur@ag.ok.gov)



**Sac and Fox Nation Casino welcomes the new dealers for the new table games:**  
(Left to right): Bottom – Suzy and Lindsey; Middle – Diedra, Keri B and Diana; Middle 2<sup>nd</sup> – Diane, James, Brad, Staci, Jade, Liz; Back – Kari S., Graham, Brian and Jacob.

## FREE Seminar for Private Water Well Owners

Presented by Jeremy Fincher, Sac and Fox Nation’s Office of Environmental Services in partnership with Bruce Chandler, Community Resource Group

**Who:** Welcome to everyone in the community (Tribal members and Non-Tribal members)

**Why:** This seminar is free of charge and the goal is to provide knowledge and information about the well that is supplying your water; how to properly maintain the well, signs of contamination to look for, proper weatherization, water quality testing, well disinfection, and much more. If you have specific questions please email or call the contact information at the bottom and we can add it as part of the discussion.

**When:** Wednesday, 4/10/13 from 10:00-12:00

**Where:** Sac and Fox Nation Learning Center, large classroom

*Refreshments will be provided.*

Please contact Jeremy Fincher at the Sac and Fox Nation’s Office of Environmental Services if you have any questions or would like for a specific topic or concern to be discussed during the seminar.

[jeremy.fincher@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov](mailto:jeremy.fincher@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov) or 918-968-0046. Thank you and hope to see you there.

## Sac and Fox Nation Veterans

**Honor Guard Princess** Nomination Ballets will be in the *March* issue of the **Sac and Fox News**

The criteria for the princess selection will be the same as last year  
**The 2013 Princess** will be announced at the **Veterans Day Powwow**  
May 25, 2013  
The Womens Auxillary will make the selection

# Sac & Fox Nation



**Back Row:** Russell Saunders, Sr., Quinton Saylor, Jeff Wilson, Jeremy Fincher  
**Front Row:** Joe Estes, Tim Quary, Robby Barrett, J. Paul Wilson

### The Power of Teamwork

Communication and teamwork are fundamental to the effective management of any system, but they can sometimes prove difficult, even within a small utility group. Add to that the challenge of two different departments being tasked with working together to run the same water system and the problems can multiply. That’s exactly the task that was given the Sac & Fox Office of Environmental Services and Maintenance Department. But the result was anything but problematic. It was a cooperative team that worked together to address significant deficiencies and meet difficult challenges.

### Overcoming Source Water Challenges

When testing revealed that one of the production wells in the water system exceeded uranium standards, the two departments worked together to take the well



offline, while ensuring that the remaining wells were able to meet demand and conform to Safe Drinking Water standards.

As soon as that was accomplished, the team turned their attention to designing and completing a special study to look for strategies for solving the uranium problem.



### Correcting Problems

During the same time period, a Ground Water Rule sanitary survey found several significant deficiencies in the Sac & Fox water system. The team from both departments quickly discovered the value of working cooperatively as they joined forces to address these problems and made it their priority to correct every deficiency quickly and efficiently.

### Putting Public Health First

The personnel of the Sac & Fox Office of Environmental Services and the Maintenance Department have shown how placing a high priority on public health protection can bridge differences and overcome obstacles to provide their people with safe drinking water.

**Congratulations to the Sac & Fox Nation, the Office of Environmental Services, and the Maintenance Department for a job well done!**

**Elders Advisory Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday,  
February 13, 2013  
Sac and Fox  
Multi-Purpose Center  
Shawnee, Oklahoma  
10:00am to 2:00pm  
Potluck & Bingo  
*All elders age 55 and over are welcome*

**Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC Program**

**Stroud Clinic**  
USDA Building  
920883 S. HWY 99

Open 1st and 3rd  
Wednesday of each Month  
Hours: 9:30am - 3:30pm  
Closed for Lunch  
12:00pm - 1:00pm

1-800-648-2302 or  
918-968-1784  
for information

Closed last business day of each month for staff training.

Standards for participation are the same regardless of age, race, sex, color, national origin or handicap.